

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for protection against voltage surges, comprising:
a first connecting electrode in electrical connection with a first connecting pad,
a second connecting electrode in electrical connection with a second connecting pad,
a third mobile arc switching electrode electrically connected to the second connecting pad,
an arc chute opening out onto the first and second connecting electrodes,
means for driving the mobile electrode with respect to the first connecting electrode from an
operating position to a switching position moving away from the first connecting electrode and
moving towards the second connecting, so that an electric arc drawn between the first connecting
electrode and the mobile electrode switches between the first connecting electrode and the
second connecting electrode when the mobile electrode moves from the operating position to the
switching position,
an ~~electric dipole~~ electrical ignition means connected so that when the mobile electrode is in the
operating position, the ~~electric dipole~~ electrical ignition means is connected to the arc switching
electrode on the one hand and to the first or second connecting pads on the other hand, and that
when the mobile electrode is in the switching position and an electric arc is drawn between the
first connecting electrode and the second connecting electrode, the ~~electric dipole~~ electrical
ignition means is disconnected from the circuit, the ~~electric dipole~~ electrical ignition means
having an ohmic resistance varying inversely with the voltage applied to the ~~dipole~~ electrical
ignition means, the ohmic resistance being high when the voltage is lower than an ignition
voltage and decreasing when the voltage increases above the ignition voltage.

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~electric dipole~~ electrical ignition means is connected in series between the switching electrode and the second connecting pad.
3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the mobile electrode in the operating position is in contact with the first connecting electrode.
4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~electric dipole~~ electrical ignition means is connected in series between the first connecting electrode and a fixed electrode s located at a distance from the first connecting electrode so that the mobile electrode in the operating position is electrically connected to the fixed electrode.
5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, additionally comprising electromagnetic induction projection means for inducing electromagnetic forces on an electric arc formed between the first connecting electrode and the mobile electrode tending either to project the arc to the arc chute or to make the arc switch to the second connecting electrode.
6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~ri~~ving driving means comprises electromagnetic induction repulsion means for inducing electromagnetic forces on the mobile electrode through which a current is flowing tending to drive the mobile electrode to the switching position.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 6, wherein the electromagnetic induction repulsion means comprises a magnetic driving circuit for channeling a magnetic flux generated by an electric current flowing between the first connecting pad and the first connecting electrode to the mobile electrode in the operating position, so that when an electric current flows from the first connecting pad to the mobile electrode, electromagnetic forces are induced in the mobile electrode, tending to drive the mobile electrode to the switching position.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means comprises a mechanism equipped with a mobile means for operation between an operating position and a disconnection position, and a kinematic link between the means for operation and the mobile electrode for driving the mobile electrode to a disconnected position when the means for operation move from the operating position to the disconnection position.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means comprises flexible return means for returning the mobile electrode to the operating position.

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the driving means comprises an energy storage spring for discharging when driving the mobile electrode from the operating position to the switching position.

12. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~electric dipole~~
electrical ignition means comprises a variable resistor.

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein one of said first and
second connecting pads is for connection to an electric line, and the other of said connecting
pads is for connection to earth.